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Title: Need to continue special category status to North-Eastern Region States.

*SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government regarding the dire need to continue special status to North-Eastern Region (NER) States.

In this regard, I would like to state that after analyzing the 14th Finance Commission's recommendations and the Union budget for 2015-16, it seems that Special Category status to NER states is going to be discontinued. I am pained to state that such a decision will adversely affect the interests of the NE States who have been suffering from the backwardness and utter under-development since long. The decision taken in the Union Budget for 2015-16 not to keep any provision under Normal Central Assistance (NCA), Special Plan Assistance (SPA) and Special Central Assistance (SCA) will drastically affect the position of finance of the NER States. Moreover, there is difference between the projected Non-Plan Expenditure and State's own Resources. Now, despite the increase in the devolution of central taxes to the States, it would be difficult for the NE States to meet the gap of Non-plan account unless additional amount of fund is sanctioned.

As the Government is aware, the sharing pattern for Centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) was 90:10 for special category States. If this is discontinued, NER States will not be able to implement the schemes due to non-availability of fund. Hence, the present financial arrangement of sharing by Centre and States in the NER at the ratio of 90:10 may be continued.

Hence, I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister, to kindly intervene in the matter and render justice to the people of NE States.

* Laid on the Table